

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a time division multiple access (TDMA) system, a method comprising the steps:
 - at a subscriber:
 - listening to an assigned channel and an alternate channel;
 - performing the step of listening to the alternate channel until a location of reverse channel signaling is determined for the assigned channel;
 - obtaining a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling;
 - transmitting information on the assigned channel; and
 - based on the fixed periodic rate, selectively listening to the alternate channel to receive reverse channel signaling.
2. (withdrawn) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises listening to the assigned channel.~~
3. (withdrawn) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises listening to the alternate channel.~~
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises retrieving the fixed periodic rate from memory, wherein the fixed periodic rate is programmed into memory *a priori*.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising at a base repeater:
 - selecting a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling;
 - receiving a burst, wherein the burst belongs to a superframe, and the superframe comprises a plurality of bursts;
 - determining that at least one burst in the superframe will collide with reverse channel signaling;
 - buffering the received burst; and
 - transmitting the buffered burst at a subsequent time.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the burst is a voice burst.
7. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the burst is a data burst.
8. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting is performed dynamically.
9. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting comprises retrieving the fixed periodic rate from memory, and wherein the fixed periodic rate is programmed into memory *a priori*.
10. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting comprises delaying the buffered burst by one frame.
11. (currently amended) In a time division multiple access (TDMA) system, a method comprising the steps:
 - selecting a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling for a first channel; and
 - transmitting reverse channel signaling at the fixed periodic rate to a transmitting subscriber assigned to the first channel,
wherein the reverse channel signaling is transmitted in a shared signaling field on a second channel on an outbound path while the second channel supports a first call and the first channel supports a second call.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the TDMA system comprises an aligned slotting structure.

13. (withdrawn) ~~The method of claim 12 wherein the transmitting subscriber is assigned to transmit on a first channel on an inbound path and to receive reverse channel signaling on a second channel on an outbound path.~~

14. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the TDMA system comprises an offset slotting structure.

15. (withdrawn) ~~The method of claim 14 wherein the transmitting subscriber is assigned to transmit on a first channel on an inbound path and to receive reverse channel signaling on the first channel of an outbound path.~~

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the reverse channel signaling is transmitted in a shared signaling field, and wherein the shared signaling field carries one of reverse channel signaling, synchronization and embedded signaling.